(f) and (g) Since the increase is marginal, diversion of Rail Traffic to Road is not expected.

Housing Scheme for Weaker Sections

*36. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to share the expenditure to be incurred on purchase of land for housing schemes of State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce the interest rates on housing loans for Weaker Sections provided through the financing agencies;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) Whether the Government also propose to increse allotment of houses to Weaker Sections; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATARAMAN) : (a) There is no such scheme. Housing being a State subject, it is for the State Government to decide as to whether they would share the cost of land with the executing agencies/beneficiaries. However, as per its normal loaning operations HUDCO finances various State level agencies like Housing Boards, Slum Boards, Development Authorities, Improvement Trust, Local Bodies etc. for land acquisition and development schemes depending on the availability of resources.

(b) State-wise details of land acquisition schemes sanctioned by HUDCO upto 31.10.97 is attached as Statement.

(c) HUDCO is providing loans for housing schemes for the benefit of the Economically Weaker Sections at concessional rate of interest of 9.5%(gross). As the cost of borrowing of funds by HUDCO is quite high, it is not possible for it to further reduce the interest rate.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There is no such scheme of allotment of house to weaker sections in urban areas. State Governments draw up housing schemes for various income categories as per their plan priorities and resources. HUDCO provides loan assistance to State agencies for its housing schemes.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise Summary of land acquisition Schemes of HUDCO (Cumulative upto 31.10.97)

(Rs. in Crores)

S. No.	States	No. of Schemes	Loan Amount
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	5.22
2.	Assam	1	1.23
3.	Bihar	1	0.64
4.	Delhi	1	3.77
5.	Gujarat	0	0.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	10	5.60
7.	Haryana	2	0.93
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	8	18.72
9.	Kerala	6	10.11
10.	Karnataka	9	8.16
11.	Maharashtra	2	7.93
12.	Madhya Pradesh	20	8.58
13.	Orissa	0	0.00
14.	Punjab	4	48.58
15.	Rajasthan	22	66.64
16.	Tamil Nadu	25	28.36
17.	Uttar Pradesh	166	587.50
18.	West Bengal	0	0.00
	Total	282	813.02

[Translation]

Procurement of Wagons

*37. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any policy has been made regarding procurement of wagons by the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;